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Host University: NUCB

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About the country and city

Japan is a unique country, has an amazing nature, great views, unique culture, unique behavior of people. It is a small country with variety of options to travel and discover : historical places, urban view, parties, best restaurants with best service and amazing design of food, best shopping (the most fashionable), volcano mountains ,hot springs and so on. The Japanese are so polite, they aren't know speak English so much, but they always try to do the best for helping, even sometimes you will be amazed to find them going with you for a lot of time. The day-to-day life is so technological, for example the using the toilets is an interesting experience, trying figure the buttons.

Nagoya is the third largest city, located in a great location for traveling, has a great transportation which can connect you easily to all point in Japan. Nagoya itself is not a touristy city, so the prices are normal and affordable, you can really feel the unique culture there, and for me it was like a small Tokyo. I recommend to visit the aquarium, go to a karaoke, try the VR (virtual reality) games and go to Onsen (nagashima spa land).

About the Host University

NUCB is located in the center close enough for everything you need. The campus is very luxury with a great atmosphere. There is a dining room (which offers free meals during intensive weekend's courses), great computer room and printing room. The university offers sport activities such as football and so on. Moreover, as being part to exchange program, the university offers organized trips which I really recommend, the trips are together with other mates and allow you feel the traditional Japanese life for example: tea ceremony, rice harvesting. Other trips like Kyoto trip, Toyota plant trip, Ise trip are also recommended. The trips is subsidized by the university.

Courses and professors

The university offers regular and intensive courses. Regular course means weekly classes, like in our university. Intensive course is a course which has only 4-5 meetings, but each meeting is for the whole day. I took 3 intensive courses only. It is difficult and I was studying under pressure. I needed to read many cases in a short period. I recommend it because you know you need two weeks of hard work, but then you are free to travel. It is important to come prepared and read all the material in advance. Two weeks before the start of the course, the syllabus and all the relevant material will be sent to you.

The most important thing is the participation during the class, if you want a high grade. The professors spoke sometimes with unclear accent, but it was possible to understand if you listening carefully.

Accommodation

The Global Center was my dorms. It is a fancy luxury complex like hotel. I like everything about it except the location. It is quite long to arrive to the center and the campus, like 20 min of train +15 min of hard climbing and walking. Moreover the transportation is good, but not working after midnight so if you want a nightlife it is difficult to get back to dorms.

The advantage is the amazing room you got, which includes a bed, desk, small refrigerator, a balcony, amazing fancy Japanese style toilet and bathroom that you will definitely love.

Global Center includes washing machine (for 200 yen per wash), small nice gym, theater room which you can use in your free time, dining room and common space to sit with other students. Cleaning service is free once a week (like hotel), free bicycle is available and a nice breakfast is served every day except from Sunday and Monday.

Visa

Easy process is needed to get the visa. The university sent all the required information so you can easily follow the steps and get the visa, it takes a week. You need to arrive to the embassy for a 25 min meeting to give them the documents which were sent by the university.

Transportation

The university will provide you all the required information about the monthly student transportation discount. During your stay in Nagoya, you can easily and relatively cheap transport from all the points you need.

The expensive is the transportation out from Nagoya, for traveling. The school offers 5 coupons you can use for 5 rides. Each coupon provides 30% discount. I recommend rent a car and share the expenses, pay attention you need a special driving license for Japan (you should do in Israel before the flight)

Insurance and Health Services

As a resident you get all the public health coverage, it cost around 16\$ per month. I didn't need to use the service.

Living expenses

Cheap in Nagoya. You can find everything you need there, no need bring anything from Israel. The school offered me a scholarship for the dormitory (about 25,000 yen per month) which covers the price of the dorms.

Food

Wow, the best fresh food that I ate ever. The quality of the food is high so even the cheapest place will serve tasty and fresh food. The breakfast is for free in dorms.

Lunch / dinner in restaurant costs about 15 Shekels, but you have a kitchen in dorms and supers so you can prepare for yourself. 7-11, Lawson, family Mart were my favorite places. I recommend to try Sushiro restaurant in Nagoya.

Night life

Sakae is the place for all night life. You can find there everything, bars, clubs, best parties, karaoke, casino, traditional Japanese bars which called Izakaya.

Tips

- Japanese don't know to speak English, it is much easy for them to read/write, so the best communication with them is by using the Google translate.
- When you get a menu in a restaurant, a local restaurant, there is an option in Google translate to scan it like a photo and translate it, very useful
- Check always the weather and what is recommended to travel in each season.
- When you try the Shinkansen (the fast train), buy only non-reserved ticket which is cheaper, pay attention that the coupons that I described are valid.
- Bring as much as less things to this journey. When you want to leave the dorms for vacation, you want to travel with comfort, and not be busy in carrying heavy stuff.
- It is common to use cash only, and not a credit card. You can feel safe to go with cash, no thieves. If you lost something, you probably will find it. The safest place
- The food is fresh and delicious, try new things, it seems sometimes strange but it is really tasty and you should open yourself for new tastes.

General experience

For me it was a unique opportunity and I recommend everyone to take break from the routine, to contribute, to represent us in front of so much interesting students all around the world, to learn from them and come back with more creative mind.

Photos





